



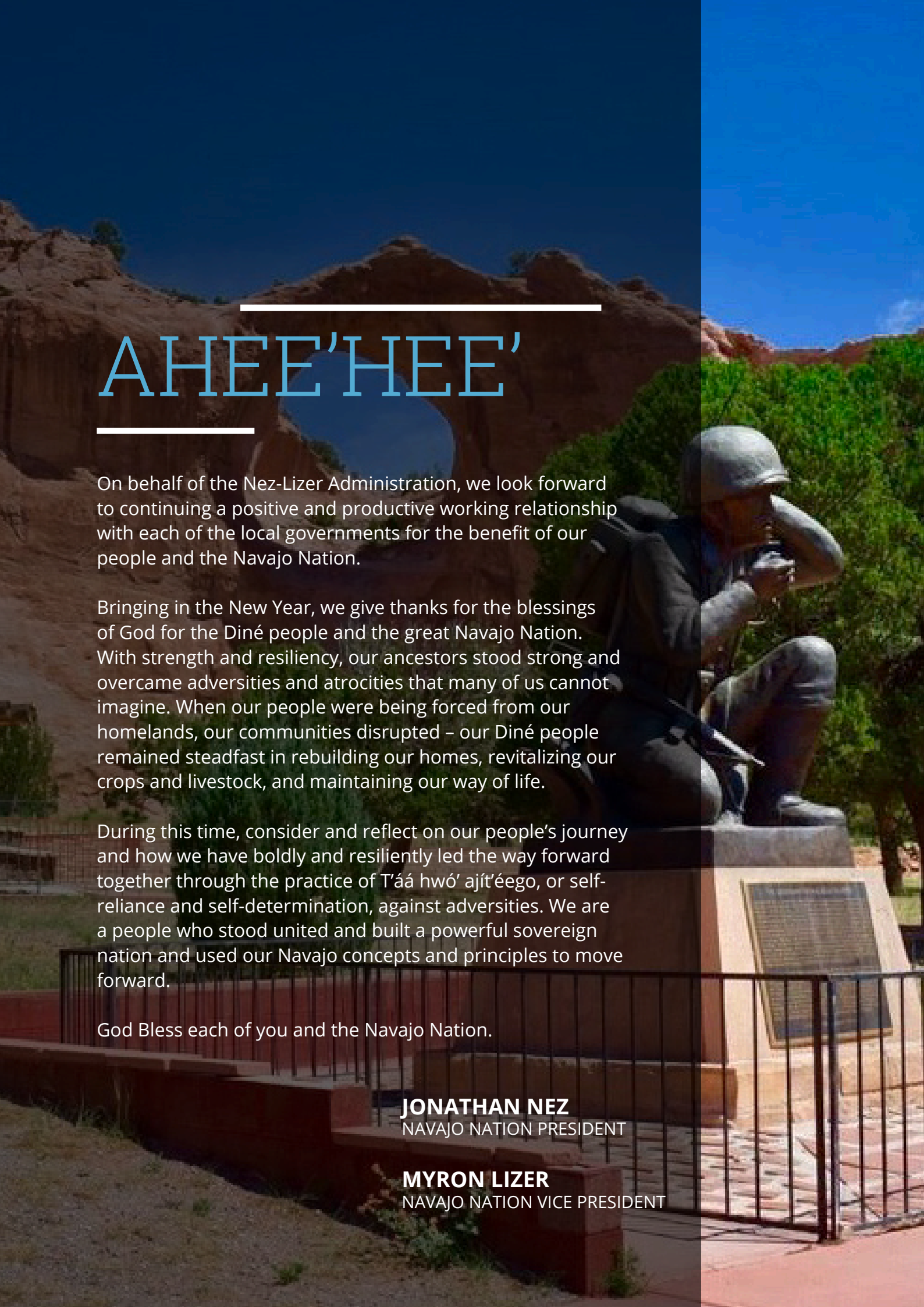
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT FT. DEFIANCE AGENCY REPORT

NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL CHAMBER



JANUARY 2020





AHEE'HEE'

On behalf of the Nez-Lizer Administration, we look forward to continuing a positive and productive working relationship with each of the local governments for the benefit of our people and the Navajo Nation.

Bringing in the New Year, we give thanks for the blessings of God for the Diné people and the great Navajo Nation. With strength and resiliency, our ancestors stood strong and overcame adversities and atrocities that many of us cannot imagine. When our people were being forced from our homelands, our communities disrupted – our Diné people remained steadfast in rebuilding our homes, revitalizing our crops and livestock, and maintaining our way of life.

During this time, consider and reflect on our people's journey and how we have boldly and resiliently led the way forward together through the practice of T'áá hwó' ajít'éego, or self-reliance and self-determination, against adversities. We are a people who stood united and built a powerful sovereign nation and used our Navajo concepts and principles to move forward.

God Bless each of you and the Navajo Nation.

JONATHAN NEZ
NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT

MYRON LIZER
NAVAJO NATION VICE PRESIDENT

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NAVAJO NATION INVESTS \$19 MILLION IN NITRILE GLOVE MANUFACTURING FACILITY



Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer were joined by Rhino Health, LLC, CEO Mark Lee while they signed into law Resolution CO-31-19, which appropriates approximately \$19 million from the Síhasin Fund to the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development Project Development Department for the Church Rock Industrial Park Project Phase Two, and adopts the Church Rock Industrial Park Project Fund Expenditure Plan.

During the 2019 Fall Council Session, Resolution CO-31-19 was approved by the 24th Navajo Nation Council with a vote of 19-0. Speaker Seth Damon sponsored the bill, and Council Delegates Jimmy Yellowhair and Rickie Nez co-sponsored.

The Church Rock Industrial Park Project is located within the community of Church Rock, N.M., approximately five-miles east of Gallup, N.M. Rhino Health, LLC, an international nitrile glove manufacturing company, is currently operating a phase one nitrile glove manufacturing plant to produce latex gloves. The phase one and two facilities will offer as many as 350 jobs new jobs on the Navajo Nation, and it will use 100 – percent Navajo labor to construct the facility.

“This project is a great example of what partnerships can do to bring economic opportunities to the Navajo Nation. The manufacturing plant will help those individuals needing jobs to provide for their families. This would not have been possible without past leadership and the collaboration of all the three branches of the Navajo Government,” said President Nez.

The appropriation will fund phase two of the

construction, including infrastructure, of a manufacturing and warehouse facility, approximately 124,000-square feet, in the Church Rock Industrial Park. The manufacturing facility will become a supplier to government agencies, medical facilities, and food and retail industries.

The Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development, including Industrial Development Specialist Sharlene Begay-Platero, has been working with the Rhino Health LLC to develop the Church Rock Manufacturing facility to begin production.

Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development Executive Director JT Willie stated, “Historically, industrial development had been misunderstood and was not a priority for the Navajo Nation. Now, under the support of the Nez-Lizer Administration and 24th Navajo Nation Council, industrial development is one avenue to employ our Navajo people and diversify the Nation’s economy.”

The multi-phase project includes an investment of more than \$49 million from Rhino, LLC. It is also partially funded through the New Mexico Economic Development Department, which contributed \$3.5 million through the Local Economic Development Act funds.

“The Administration also extends their appreciation to Rhino CEO Mark Lee for working closely with the Nation. The great and successful partnership will bring much-needed jobs and revenue for our Nation for many years to come,” said Vice President Lizer.

Once completed, the phase two facility would be owned by the Navajo Nation and will receive a tribal building number.

“The Division of Economic Development has been working on this initiative for years, and it’s exciting to see the project moving forward. The project is already putting our Navajo people to work in preparation for the production of nitrile gloves. This project will bring many jobs home and instill hope and growth for the Navajo Nation,” President Nez added.

Also, at the event was Council Delegate Wilson Stewart, Council Delegate Otto Tso, Navajo Nation Division of General Services Lomardo Aseret, Navajo Nation Division of Transportation Garrett Silversmith, Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Acting Executive Director James D. Zwierlein, and Division of Human Resources Executive Director Dr. Perphelia Fowler.

Phase two of construction is expected to be completed by 2021.



NAVAJO NATION SECURES SEVERAL KEY TRIBAL INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL POSITIONS

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council successfully secured several key seats on the Tribal Interior Budget Council, during a meeting with the 12 Bureau of Indian Affairs regions in Washington D.C. on Nov. 13.

The Tribal-Interior Budget Council provides a forum and process for tribes and federal officials to work together in developing annual budget requests for programs under the U.S. Department of the Interior. This week’s meetings focus on budget priorities for fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

President Nez made several nominations during Wednesday’s meeting including appointing Council Delegate Jamie Henio to serve as a member of the TIBC’s Budget Subcommittee and recommending Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. to serve as the co-chair of the Road Maintenance Subcommittee.

In addition, Council Delegate Pernell Halona was confirmed as a member of the Data Management Subcommittee, Council Delegate Eugenia Charles Newton is now the chair of the Public Safety Subcommittee, and Council Delegate Paul Begay was appointed as a member of the Education Subcommittee.

“These appointments are key to securing more resources from the Department of the Interior for critical services and projects related to road maintenance, education opportunities for our young people, and public safety for our communities,” said President Nez. “By



securing these key positions, the Navajo Nation will have greater influence in the federal budget process in the coming years.”

Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission Officer Director Christopher Becenti will serve as a technical advisor for the Data Management Subcommittee, Division of Transportation Director Garret Silversmith will be the technical advisor for the Road Maintenance Subcommittee, and Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance Director Rose Graham will be the technical advisor for the Education Subcommittee.

“Working together with the Navajo Nation Council, we presented a strong and united voice before the Tribal Interior Budget Council. As we move forward, it’s important that careful coordination continues so that we can help secure more resources and policy changes to help our Navajo people,” said President Nez, who serves as the Navajo Nation’s primary representative along with

Speaker Seth Damon.

In addition to securing more resources, President Nez continues to advocate for advanced funding for critical programs and services to prevent a disruption in services for the Navajo people during government shutdowns.

“The Navajo people should not be impacted by federal government shutdowns under any circumstances. Federal government shutdowns are a breach of trust responsibilities to tribes, so to prevent this we will

continue to push for advanced funding for areas that are critical to the livelihood of our people,” added President Nez.

Also, in attendance were Council Delegates Charlene Tso and Raymond Smith, Jr. and Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Director Dr. Rudy Shebala, Division of Community Services Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman, Division of Public Safety Director Jesse Delmar, and Navajo Nation Washington Office Director Santee Lewis.

NEZ-LIZER ADMINISTRATION COMPLETES EARTHEN DAM REPAIRS IN THE FORMER BENNETT FREEZE AREA

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez met with community members and local officials on Nov. 15, in the community of Tolani Lake, Ariz. to announce the recent completion of repairs to three earthen dams in the Former Bennet Freeze Area while work continues on other local dams.

On May 21, President Nez met with Tolani Lake residents and officials and gave his commitment that the Nez-Lizer Administration would advance water projects including water line extensions, installation of water tanks, earthen dam repairs, and water resources for livestock and agriculture. President Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer also met with residents in the remote community of Black Falls in February.

Since then, President Nez and Vice President Lizer have met with officials with the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources and the Water Management Branch to identify and secure more resources to help local residents.

“When we came to Tolani Lake and Black Falls several months ago we told you that we would be back to report on the progress we’re making. We’re proud of the work that has been completed — it’s a good start, but there’s much more we need to work together with the community to improve,” said President Nez. “This is a great opportunity to keep the momentum going, we need to have benchmarks and show results, and come back together to keep planning and moving forward.”

He also highlighted the Nez-Lizer Administration’s ongoing work to develop housing manufacturing facilities on the Navajo Nation to construct new homes for Navajo families, and to complete infrastructure projects that were funded in previous years including power line and water line projects.

In addition to the earthen dam repairs, Tariq Najam with the Department of Water Resources also



announced that the Nation will receive new heavy equipment in January, and will designate certain equipment specifically to make improvements for the Former Bennet Freeze Area communities.

President Nez was joined by Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office Executive Director Robert K. Black, Jr., who spoke about the launch of the “Navajo Thaw Implementation Plan,” a partnership with Native Builders LLC and Building Communities to address infrastructure, community, and economic development in the Former Bennet Freeze Area.

According to NHLCO Executive Director Robert Black, Jr., the partnership would allow the nine local chapters to identify their strategies, initiatives, projects, and priorities to address in the detailed plan. The investment plan will leverage the collective power and energy of the chapters to secure funding and development within the area, he added.

Following the presentations, President Nez took time to listen to concerns from local residents, which focused primarily on the need to improve existing roads in the area, the need for electricity and more water resources for residents.

He also acknowledged the work conducted by

the Tolani Lake Livestock and Water Users Association, Tolani Lake Enterprise, Leupp Farms, and chapter officials and asked for their continued support and partnership.

“We can do a lot at the central level of government, but we can do even more when the local chapters and residents work together with us to empower your communities to make positive changes,” added President Nez.

Following the meet at Tolani Chapter, President Nez and the residents visited several of the earthen dam sites that have been completed. The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Executive Director Dr. Rudy Shebala, Tariq Najam with the Department of Water Resources, Jason John with Water Management, and many others for your dedication and hard work.

PRESIDENT NEZ SIGNS LONG-AWAITED MASTER AGRICULTURE LEASE FOR NAPI



On Nov. 18, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez was joined by Navajo Agricultural Products Industry Board of Directors as he signed the first-phase master agriculture lease for NAPI to continue operations on approximately 72,000 acres of Navajo land located south west of Farmington, N.M. NAPI officials said the Navajo enterprise had work toward finalizing the lease agreement for several years.

The Navajo Nation created NAPI in 1970 to operate and manage the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, which authorized the use of over 110,000 acres of land and water resources to be used to grow agricultural products. Since then, the enterprise continues to expand and offer a wide variety of food products for sale.

“The Nez-Lizer Administration commends the NAPI Board and all of their employees for continuing the success of NAPI and the development of NIIP. The master lease process took years to develop and went through a lengthy review process before reaching this point today,” said President Nez, who signed the final lease agreement at the NAPI Headquarters.

Council Delegate Rickie Nez, who also chairs the Navajo Nation Council’s Resources and Development Committee, sponsored legislation to support the master agriculture lease, which was eventually approved by the RDC.

During Monday’s NAPI Board of Directors

meeting, the group also received several reports and updates regarding the Bisti Solar Project in the community of Huerfano, a hemp pilot research project being conducted by NAPI and New Mexico State University under provisions in the 2014 U.S. Farm Bill, and the proposed development of the petrochemical plant by Four Corners Economic Development.

President Nez noted that the Nez-Lizer Administration’s Háyoolkáál Work Group supports the Bisti Solar Project, which is currently under the management of project manager Sam Woods, who provided the update to NAPI Board members. NAPI approved a resolution to support the project which will be developed on approximately 660 acres of land within the boundaries of NAPI.

In April, President Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued the □“Navajo Háyoolkáál (Sunrise) Proclamation,” which states that the Navajo Nation will pursue and prioritize renewable energy development for the long-term benefit of the Navajo people. □

Also in attendance were Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Executive Director Dr. Rudy Shebala, Division of Economic Development Executive Director JT Willie, and Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office Director Robert K. Black, Jr. The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks the NAPI Board of Directors and staff for the opportunity to be a part of Monday’s meeting.

NAVAJO NATION AND HOPI TRIBE WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE HOPI ROUTE 60



Nation President Jonathan Nez, Speaker Seth Damon, and Hopi Tribal Vice Chairman Clark W. Tenakhongva met in Polacca, Ariz. near the First Mesa on the Hopi Tribal lands on Nov. 20, where they offered their support to move forward with improvements to Hopi Route 60 — a 13-mile stretch of dirt road that connects the Navajo community of Low Mountain and the Hopi community of Polacca.

President Nez said that Hopi Route 60 serves as a significant corridor for residents, school buses, first responders, tourists, and many others daily. He added that for the Navajo and Hopi communities to grow economically and for the benefit of residents, both sides would have to make compromises and work together for the long-term.

“I appreciate the Hopi Tribe’s willingness to work together. Under our combined leadership, we can present a stronger and united voice at the county, state, and federal levels to advocate for the completion of Hopi Route 60,” said President Nez.

For many years, the route has been in great need of maintenance and pavement to serve the communities better. Several years ago, the Arizona State Legislature approved \$1.5 million for the road. However, according to Navajo Nation Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith, it would cost approximately \$35 million to pave the route.

Silversmith recommended that the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe begin by entering into an Inter-Governmental Agreement. He said the NDOT is willing to provide technical assistance to update existing design plans for the roadway and to seek additional funds. He also stated that the \$1.5 million could contribute to making improvements such as the installation of two low water crossings, graveling, and chip sealing.

Hopi Tribal Vice Chairman Clark W. Tenakhongva said that paving the route would also help the communities to recover some of the revenue lost by the closure of Kayenta Mine and the Navajo Generating Station by creating a corridor for business development. He also spoke in support of continuing to partner with the Navajo Nation on other initiatives that benefit both tribes.

Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr., who represents the Low Mountain community as a member of the Navajo Nation Council, said he’s ready to see the tribes take action by collaborating and sharing expertise and resources. Last week, President Nez nominated Delegate Begay to serve as the co-chair of the Tribal Interior Budget Council’s Road Maintenance Subcommittee, which may also help in securing road funds.

Arizona State Rep, Arlando Teller (D-Dist. 7), a member of the Navajo Nation, was also in attendance and offered his recommendations, which included meeting with Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey to address the road issues. He also said that he would be introducing a bill in the upcoming State Legislative session to provide more resources for Hopi Route 60.

Navajo County Supervisors Jesse Thompson and Lee Jack, Sr. also attended Wednesday’s meeting to offer their support. Supervisor Thompson said he looks forward to joining the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe in lobbying at the state level when the State Legislature begins its session in January.

“With today’s meeting, we’ve established a positive path forward for the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, and Navajo County to work together with the support of Rep. Teller to identify funding sources and other resources to fund Hopi Route 60,” said President Nez.

VICE PRESIDENT LIZER JOINS PRESIDENT TRUMP FOR SIGNING OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS EXECUTIVE ORDER



On Nov. 26, Navajo Nation Vice President Myron Lizer and Second Lady Dottie Lizer joined President Donald Trump in the Oval Office, for the signing of an executive order to establish an inter-agency task force to address the epidemic of missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska persons. U.S. Attorney Gen. William Barr, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, and other tribal leaders were also in attendance at the White House for the ceremony.

“This is another step forward for Indigenous nations throughout the country. I commend President Trump and his administration for recognizing the traumatic epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous relatives. Throughout our tribal nations, we hear far too many stories of families, victims, and survivors so we need to keep our sacred women and children safe and protected,” said Vice President Lizer, who also had the honor of providing a prayer in the Oval Office moments prior to the signing of the executive order.

On Nov. 22, Attorney Gen. Barr announced the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Initiative, which will invest \$1.5 million to hire specialized coordinators within the offices of U.S. Attorneys who will be tasked with developing protocols for a more coordinated response to violence against Indigenous people.

Tuesday’s executive order will launch “Operation Lady Justice,” a task force led by Attorney General Barr and Secretary Bernhardt to develop an aggressive, government-wide strategy to improve the safety of Native

American communities. The order will also allow tribal and local law enforcement to seek assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Justice Department, who will conduct an in-depth review of federal databases to determine best practices for collecting data on missing and murdered Indigenous persons.

“Our Native American people experience violence at a higher rate than any other nationality in the country. The lack of reporting and investigation of missing and murdered Indigenous peoples needs to be taken seriously,” said Vice President Lizer. “The executive order gives hope to our tribal nations that justice is being sought and that there is a path for healing of our families, victims, and survivors.”

“The issue of missing and murdered Indigenous persons has not only affected families, but it impacts communities. As leaders, we must continue to advocate for safety and justice for Native women and children. Most importantly, we need to address efforts to restore balance, love, and harmony within Native homes and communities,” said Second Lady Lizer.

The murder rate is ten times higher than the national average for American Indian women, with 84-percent experiencing some form of violence during their lifetime. There is still no reliable way of knowing how many Native women go missing each year because the databases that hold statistics of these cases are outdated. Besides, issues have arisen due to the lack of coordination between law enforcement agencies.

President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Lizer

also continue to support the Savanna's Act, which aims to protect American Indian women, men, and children from violent crimes. The Senate moved forward with its version in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Committee earlier this week.

"The issues of Missing and murdered Indigenous women

is a priority for the Nez-Lizer Administration. On behalf of the Navajo Nation, we extend our appreciation to the administration for taking this step to protect Indigenous women, children, and families. Much more needs to be done at every level of government to protect our people," said President Nez.

NAVAJO NATION AND UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA SIGN MOA TO CREATE THE NAVAJO LAW FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez was joined by Miss Navajo Nation Shaandiin Parrish as he finalized a Memorandum of Agreement with the University of Arizona at the James E. Rogers School of Law on Dec. 3, which establishes the Navajo Law Fellowship Program with the overall goal of increasing the number of Navajo law school graduates and creating pathways to legal careers.

President Nez said the new fellowship program is an investment in the future of the Navajo Nation, and also empowers young Navajo people to determine their own future and creates another pathway for Navajo students to come home and give back to their communities.

"This MOA is intended to empower our Diné students — to bring them home to the Navajo Nation to help our people through this partnership with the University of Arizona. I am thankful to the University for working with us to create this new opportunity," said President Nez.

Under the terms of the MOA, the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance and the University of Arizona will partner to match financial aid awards to Navajo law school students who are part of the fellowship program.

In addition, first-year law school students will receive academic advisement, information, and an overview of the Navajo Nation legal system and legal

career possibilities within the Navajo Nation. They will also be placed in a summer honors externship that may include rotations through selected Navajo Nation law offices, court locations, legal aid offices and other placements.

Second-year students will be offered a course on Navajo Nation law and the legal system. The summer externships will build on the first-year experiences and include a workshop that helps to prepare for the Navajo Nation Bar Exam. Third-year students will participate in a workshop that prepares them for the Arizona Bar Exam and Navajo Nation placement following the exam.

"This is a great partnership and a great opportunity to foster the development of more Diné professionals. Our Nation has a great need for more legal expertise to help move us forward in many ways whether it be securing water rights, the protection of our women and children, or other important matters," said Vice President Myron Lizer.

As part of the program, the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance will also provide additional funds to cover a portion of fees for students who are admitted to and attend the Pre-Law Summer Institute at the University of New Mexico and fees for the state bar exam application and the Bar Review course necessary to help prepare for the bar exam.

During the visit to the campus, President Nez

also met with Navajo students who are part of the Navajo Nation Future Physicians' Scholarship Fund program, which was established under the former administration.

The agreement with the University of Arizona College of Medicine is designed to help more Navajo students pursue careers as physicians. The program currently provides financial aid to seven Navajo students for the costs of tuition and academic support to help them earn a medical degree from the University.

"Our Nation is working with IHS to construct several new hospital facilities in our communities including Dilkon, near the city of Gallup, and we're working to develop more so we need more health and medical professionals to return home and help our people," stated President Nez.

He also met with University of Arizona President Dr. Robert C. Robbins to discuss how to develop more partnerships to benefit Navajo students and to develop

stronger support from the University for all Native American students by creating a senior level position to advise the University on Native American issues to help students, providing academic advisors for Native American students, more financial assistance, and more to improve retention and graduation rates. He also delivered a letter from the Native SOAR student organization outlining concerns and recommendations from the Native American student body representatives.

The Office of the President and Vice President thanks Native SOAR, Native American Law Students Association, University of Arizona President Dr. Robert C. Robbins, James E. Rogers School of Law Dean Mark Miller Regents Professor of Law Rob Williams, Assistant Vice President for Tribal Relations and Government & Community Relations Karen Francis-Begay, and Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance Department Manager Rose Graham for your support.

NEW NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE



On Dec. 18, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez joined the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee as Navajo Nation Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley administered the oath of office for six new Navajo Nation Board of Education members, during a ceremony held in the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz.

President Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer appointed each of the six members, which were then confirmed by the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee. The six new members will fill the 11-member board, which also includes five elected members from each Navajo agency – marking the first time the board has had full membership in many years.

President Nez spoke to the new board members

about the importance of being accountable, maintaining integrity, and honoring the oath to serve our students and schools.

"Work hard for our children, our future, but also maintain your accountability to your people, to our kids, and all those that you will serve," stated President Nez.

The six new Navajo Board of Education members are:

Dr. Pauletta J. White has served in the classroom in several capacities including a teacher, guidance counselor, and administrator for 34 years in the public school system. She is currently the Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services with Gallup McKinley County School overseeing the departments of special education, Indian education, English, bilingual education, counseling,

libraries, and home school liaisons. Dr. White will serve a six-year term as the school administration representative on the board.

Andrea K. Thomas is a 5th grade teacher at Mesa Elementary in Shiprock, New Mexico and has over five years of teaching and managing experience in the classroom. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education from the University of New Mexico and serves on the New Mexico Teacher Leader Network and the New Mexico Teacher Evaluation Task Force. She will serve a six-year term as the teacher representative on the board.

Emerson John currently serves as a Culture Liaison Specialist at Tséhootsooí Medical Center in Ft. Defiance, Arizona and previously served as a traditional coordinator at the Navajo Nation Division of Behavioral Health Services. He is also a member of the Diné Hataali Association and certified as a Navajo practitioner. He will serve a six-year term as one of two traditional Navajo culture representatives on the board.

Joan Benally is a mother and grandmother who currently teaches social studies to 7th and 8th graders at Kayenta Boarding School. She has worked at the school in various capacities over the last 10 years. She earned a degree in education from Northern Arizona University and is currently pursuing a master's degree from NAU as well. She will serve a six-year term as one of two parent representatives on the board.

Spencer J. Willie serves as a project manager for Tribal-D, Inc. software company that serves tribal

governments and organizations. He also has extensive experience in government relations and previously worked with Navajo Housing Authority, Navajo Nation Head Start, and Rough Rock Community School. He has a Master's in Public Administration and a Bachelor's of Science in Political Science from Southern Utah University. He will serve a six-year term as one of two parent representatives on the board.

Dr. Henry Fowler currently serves as the Dean of Graduate Studies at Navajo Technical University (NTU). Among his extensive professional experience, he previously served as the chair of Undergraduate Diné Studies at NTU, chair of Math/Physics/Technology at Diné College and Dean of Faculty, and as the vice chair of the Navajo Nation Commission on Navajo Government Development. He earned a doctorate degree in education from Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, CA, a Master's in Education from Northern Arizona University (NAU), and a Bachelor of Science in secondary math education also from NAU. He will serve a six-year term as one of two traditional Navajo culture representatives on the board.

The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council is chaired by Honorable Daniel Tso and the vice chair is Honorable Carl Slater. The committee's membership includes Honorable Delegates Paul Begay, Pernell Halona, Charlaine Tso, and Edison Wauneka.

PRESIDENT NEZ SIGNS MASTER LEASE FOR BIRDSPRINGS ELDERLY GROUP HOME



Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez was joined by First Lady Phefelia Nez, 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegate Thomas Walker, Jr., Tsidi To'ii chapter officials, administration, and community members as he signed the master lease on Dec. 14 between the Navajo Nation and the Navajo Housing Authority for the

Birdsprings Elderly Group Home, located adjacently east of the Tsidi To'ii Chapter in Birdsprings, Ariz.

The facility was constructed in 2009 with the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act, which assist Native American tribes in improving housing and infrastructure. The facility has approximately

ten units, a kitchen, laundry rooms, living areas, and administrative rooms.

“This has been long overdue. We need to open this facility for our elders, so we can begin taking the responsibility of taking care of our elders on our homelands. Many of our elders live in nursing homes off the Nation and in border towns, and it is emotional to see them missing their natural environment near their families, livestock, and community,” said President Nez.

“During the campaign, we visited the community of Birdsprings and heard their concerns of the elder home and the need to complete the facility. The Nez-Lizer Administration took a proactive approach to honor the community’s request and to move forward the project for our Navajo elders,” added President Nez.

In March, the Administration toured the Birdsprings Elderly Group Home and identified and prioritized the need for construction and renovation of the facility.

In August, the Resources and Development Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council approved legislation to support the master lease, sponsored by Delegate Walker, who represents the community of Birdsprings.

Tsidi To’iiChapter resolution dated in Dec. 15, 2019 states, “The chapter for many years sought assistance from various programs and leadership for the completion of the elder group home. The Navajo Housing

Authority will have site lease control and initiate the final stages of the building renovation.”

“The Nez-Lizer Administration commends the leadership and community members of Birdsprings, most importantly, the Navajo Housing Authority for taking the lead to support and improve the services and resources for Navajo elders. The master lease took many years to develop and went through a lengthy review process before reaching this point today,” said President Nez, who signed the final lease agreement at the Tsidi To’iiChapter.

“This is another step towards effective partnerships that benefit our Navajo elders. The master lease will serve as a foundation to improve the facility and to have our elders near their homes and families,” said Delegate Walker.

Also in attendance were AZ House Rep. Bob Thorpe, Coconino County Supervisor Jim Parks, Navajo County Supervisor Jesse Thompson, Navajo Nation Division of Social Services Executive Directive Deannah Neswood Gishey, Navajo Nation Department of Health Executive Director Dr. Jill Jim, Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Executive Director Dr. Rudy Shebala, and Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety Executive Director Jesse Delmar.

The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks the Tsidi To’iiChapter and community members for the opportunity to be a part of their chapter meeting.

NAVAJO NATION SET TO ACQUIRE RIGHTS TO 500 MEGAWATTS OF TRANSMISSION LINES



On Dec. 28, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer were joined by

Council Delegates Herman Daniels, Jr. and Wilson Stewart, Jr., both members of the Resources and

Development Committee, at the Office of the President and Vice President in Window Rock, Ariz. as they approved \$1.9 million to secure the rights to 500 megawatts along the Navajo Generating Station transmission lines that will allow the Nation to earn revenue from the use or marketing of transmission of electrical power.

The rights to the transmission lines were part of the extension lease negotiated between the Navajo Nation and the owners of the Navajo Generating Station in 2017, which also included the terms of decommissioning and remediation of the power plant.

President Nez said the acquisition of the 500 megawatts places the Navajo Nation in the driver seat to determine its own energy future in accordance with the Nez-Lizer Administration's Háyoolkáál Proclamation, which was issued in April and states that the Nation will pursue and prioritize renewable energy development for the long-term benefit of the Navajo people.

"It's the beginning of a new era for the Navajo Nation — the start of new opportunities. We recognize that NGS provided many benefits for the workers and their families, but times are changing and energy development is changing. The demand for coal-based energy is no longer at its peak, not only in our region but across the country. As Diné people, we have always been resilient in times of change, and that's what we are doing by pursuing renewable energy options. We are looking to become the leader in renewable energy throughout the Southwest and Indian Country," said President Nez.

The Háyoolkáál Proclamation also created the Háyoolkáál Work Group comprised of officials from the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources, Department of Justice, Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Economic Development, Division of Community Development, Navajo Nation Washington Office, and the Office of the President and Vice President.

Háyoolkáál Work Group member and Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Dr. Rudy Shebala was also in attendance and stated that since its creation, the work group has served as the Nation's clearinghouse for energy development

proposals and continues to meet on a regular basis to strategize and plan for the long-term vision and priorities related to energy development of the Navajo Nation.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer said the Háyoolkáál Work Group will continue serving as the primary clearinghouse for energy projects along with the Navajo Nation Energy Office when it is established. The office was funded in the current year's budget, however, enabling legislation to officially create the office was previously tabled by the Council.

"Our administration is ready to move forward with renewable energy projects. With the addition of this ability to use and market up 500 megawatts of electricity, it's a big win for the Navajo people in terms of long-term energy development and the revenues," said Vice President Lizer.

Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr., who represents several communities that are impacted by the closure of the Navajo Generating Station, said he fully supports the initiative and that he believes it will benefit the Navajo people in the long-term.

"I believe that the 500 megawatts is good for the Navajo Nation. It's providing the Nation with the capability to lead the Nation and the western portion of the United States with energy that will be a need now and in the future. This transmission signing is the first brick in building our resources and our revenues for the next seven generations to come. We are very fortunate to have acquired the transmission line for the Nation," stated Council Delegate Wilson Stewart, Jr.

The \$1.9 million from the Nation's Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance will be paid to the Bureau of Reclamation for the annual capital costs associated with the 500MW. The resolution also calls for the creation of an account to hold all revenue generated from the 500MW to be used to repay the \$1.9 million, to pay for future annual costs, and to fund energy-related projects.

The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks Speaker Seth Damon for sponsoring the legislation and the members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council for supporting the \$1.9 million funding request.

NEZ-LIZER ADMINISTRATION MEETS WITH EIGHT NEW MEXICO CHAPTERS

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Division Directors from the Nez-Lizer Administration met with officials and residents on Saturday from the communities of Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, and Whitehorse Lake at the Ojo Encino Chapter house where they received concerns and recommendations on various issues and also provided updates to the communities.

Officials and representatives from each of the chapters provided updates and possible solutions based on various needs including road improvements, land use issues, economic development projects, capital outlay projects, behavioral health services, and more. Previously, President Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer held similar meetings in other regions of the Navajo Nation in order to better communicate with local chapters and

residents.

“For the Nez-Lizer Administration, it’s very important that we and our division directors are out in the communities so that we can truly understand the issues and work together with the communities to develop timelines and solutions. During our campaign, the Navajo people conveyed to us the need to have their leaders and directors in the communities and that’s what the meeting in Ojo Encino is about,” said President Nez, who also thanked Council Delegate Daniel Tso for organizing the meeting and inviting the Nez-Lizer Administration.

Office of the President and Vice President Chief of Staff Paulson Chaco was in attendance along with Division of Economic Development Executive Director JT Willie, Division of Human Resources Executive Director Dr. Perphelia Fowler, Veterans Administration Executive Director James D. Zweirlein, Division of Community Development Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman, Sue Bizadie with the Office of Navajo Tax Commission, Division of General Services Executive Director Lamardo Aseret, Taft Blackhorse with Division of Transportation, Division of Social Services Executive Director Deannah Neswood-Gishey, Division of Natural Resources Executive Director Dr. Rudy Shebala, Navajo Gaming Regulatory Executive Director Paulene Thomas, and Telecommunications Regulatory Commission Executive Director Christopher Becenti.

Each of the divisions and program representatives in attendance provided updates on various projects and initiatives for the region and answered questions from residents and officials. With the New Mexico State Legislature scheduled to begin its session on Jan. 21, President Nez said it’s crucial to continue working together with all New Mexico chapters to ensure that capital outlay projects are making progress toward completion. During last year’s session, the Nation was successful in securing \$28 million in capital outlay funds.



The Office of the President and Vice President requests all New Mexico chapters to provide a copy of their Capital Outlay Project funding proposals to the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development prior to the start of the upcoming New Mexico State Legislative session on Jan. 21.

“If chapters work with the Division of Community Development and notify them of their proposals, we can better align our priorities and advocate on a more unified level when we meet with our state legislators in the upcoming session,” said President Nez.

President Nez and Council Delegate Daniel Tso also expresses their appreciation to the chapter officials in attendance for being proactive and working hard to help their constituents throughout their communities. Delegate Tso also thanked President Nez for continuing to support a \$50 million scholarship proposal intended to help Navajo college students – a bill that Delegate Tso is co-sponsoring.

The Nez-Lizer Administration appreciates the invitation to today’s meeting and looks forward to continuing to work together and continuing the constructive dialogue to bring about solutions that benefit our Navajo residents and communities.

“THERE’S A GREAT NEED FOR THE NAVAJO NATION TO REMAIN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2020 CENSUS COUNT SO THAT OUR PEOPLE ARE WELL-INFORMED AND TO ENSURE THAT THOSE LIVING IN REMOTE AREAS ARE COUNTED,” SAID PRESIDENT NEZ. “ACCURATE CENSUS DATA HAS VERY CRITICAL IMPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF FUNDING, POLICY DEVELOPMENT, POLITICAL REPRESENTATION, AND OTHER FACTORS AT EVERY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT.”

- PRESIDENT JONATHAN NEZ

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FIRST LADY NEZ AND SECOND LADY LIZER TO HOST "HEART TO HEART CONFERENCE"

Navajo Nation First Lady Phefelia Nez and Second Lady Dottie Lizer are pleased to announce the "2020 Heart to Heart: Victorious Women – Healing of the Heart and Mind" conference, which will be hosted by the Office of the First Lady and Second Lady on Feb. 1, 2020, at the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort in Leupp, Ariz. The inspiring conference aims to encourage and empower women through worship, ministry, and fellowship.

"We are honored to host the first Heart to Heart conference on the Navajo Nation. We extend our invitation to all women to join us to elevate our spiritual strength, enhance our leadership within our homes and communities, and to build relationships through faith, inspiration, and love," said First Lady Phefelia Nez. "We are looking forward to hosting the conference this year and the next two years on the Navajo Nation."

"Our goal is to help women in all aspects of life, emotionally, mentally, physically, financially, and spiritually. Our time together will help each of us to share the power of our stories to restore and elevate hope and faith. Most importantly, together, we can lead in ministry with confidence and direction," said Second Lady Dottie Lizer.

The conference will offer a broad spectrum of musicians, pastors, scholars, worship leaders, and planners, including Dr. Sandy McKenzie, Deborah Kim, Robyn Dykstra, Fannie Chavez-Platero, and Margie Rosalind Tso (Platero).

Other presenters will include Fannie Chavez-Platero and Margie Rosalind Tso (Platero). Chavez-Platero is from To'Hajiilee, N.M. and the wife of the late Evangelist Chester Platero, who both led a gospel ministry on the Navajo Nation for over 50 years. Tso and her late husband, Alvin Tso, has also led a ministry for over 50 years. Through the grief and loss of four of her children, she continues to serve the Lord and others.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Sandy McKenzie, who earned a Master's in Business Education and a Doctorate of Ministry in Christian Counseling and has provided counseling and life-coaching

practice for over 17 years and published many titles and presentations. She is passionate about helping hurting hearts based on her personal experiences with insecurity, anxiety, guilt, fear, and grief. Despite these personal challenges, Dr. McKenzie has found a way to live in peace, to be successful, and to have confidence in God's healing, strength, joy, and blessing.

The Office of the First Lady and Second Lady is also waiving the \$30 registration fee for the first 300 participants that register online. The conference will include prayer groups, lunch, and vendors. Childcare is provided with a \$10 fee per child.

To register for the "2020 Heart to Heart: Victorious Women – Healing of the Heart and Mind" conference on Feb. 1, 2020, please visit <http://h2hsedona.org> or contact Sonya Begay with the Office of the First Lady and Second Lady at (928) 810-8505 or email sonyambegay@navajo-nsn.gov.



The poster features a central graphic of two overlapping hearts filled with colorful floral patterns, set against a light blue background with a subtle cross. The text is arranged in a structured layout with various colors and fonts to draw attention.

Navajo Nation First Lady Phefelia Nez & Second Lady Dottie Lizer, in conjunction with the Victorious Life Christian Center invite you to the...

Inspirational Testimonies

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2020 Heart to Heart

VICTORIOUS

"Healing of the Heart & Mind"

Women

February 1, 2020

Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort
Flagstaff, Arizona
9 A.M. - 4 P.M. (MST)

\$30 PER PERSON

CHILDCARE PROVIDED
\$10 PER CHILD

REGISTER at www.H2H2020.org

VENDORS WELCOME LUNCH PROVIDED PRAYER GROUPS

For more information contact the Navajo Nation Office of the First and Second Lady
Sonya Begay at (928) 810-8505, email: sonyambegay@navajo-nsn.gov